Agroecology 710: AGROECOLOGY SEMINAR

Fall, 2009

Tuesdays (usually), 4 to 5:15pm

Valley of the Wisconsin, John Steuart Curry, 1946

ABOUT THE COURSE
The Agroecology Seminar runs every semester of the academic year. In the Fall, the seminar is built around a set theme, with a series of invited speakers. This year’s theme is *What to Eat: A Seven Discourse Meal*, based on the campus-wide reading of Michael Pollan’s book *In Defense of Food*. In the Spring, the seminar operates as an informal brown-bag seminar where participants and guests present works-in-progress or we discuss topical issues of concern to agroecologists. Anyone, from anywhere, is cordially invited to participate.

THE STUDENTS
While the seminar is open to anyone, graduate students may take the seminar for 1 ungraded course credit. Agroecology Masters students are expected to take it for at least 3 semesters during the course of their graduate study, so there are always plenty of them in the room.

THE INSTRUCTOR
Michael Bell, Department of Community and Environmental Sociology—michaelbell@wisc.edu

LOCATION
This term, we meet in 10 Agricultural Hall for class sessions and 270 Soils for outside lectures.

EXPECTATIONS
To receive a credit, students must attend at least 12 of the 15 seminar sessions; participate in a “wiki group” on one of the themes raised by the seminar; and read Pollan’s book
Seminar Schedule

Sept. 8, Tuesday: Introduction
Sept. 15, Tuesday: Read and discuss first half of Pollan’s book
Sept. 22, Tuesday: Read and discuss second half of Pollan’s book

Oct. 1, Thursday: **WISCONSIN FARMERS SPEAK ABOUT WHAT TO EAT**

*Bill Bruins*, President of the WI Farm Bureau and diary farmer near Waupun

*Richard Cates*, Member of DATCP Ag Board and pasture-based beef farmer near Spring Green

*Louise Hemstead*, Chief Operating Officer of Organic Valley Coop and organic dairy farmer near Lafarge

Oct. 6, Tuesday: **CALS FACULTY SPEAK ABOUT WHAT TO EAT**

*Brent McCown*, Gottschalk Distinguished Professor of Horticulture

*Franco Milani*, Assistant Professor of Food Science

*Susan Nitzke*, Professor and Chair of Nutritional Sciences

Oct. 13, Tuesday: **CHANGING TASTES: SUSTAINABILITY, DEMOGRAPHICS AND THE MARKETPLACE**

*Arlin Wasserman*, Vice President for Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility, Sodexo Corporation

Oct. 20, Tuesday: **FERTILITY, FERTILIZERS, AND FOOD: IN DEFENSE OF HABER**

*Phil Barak*, Professor of Soil Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Oct. 27, Tuesday: **HEALTHY LAND, HEALTHY FOOD, HEALTHY EATERS: AN ECOLOGICAL APPROACH TO HEALTH**

*Angie Tagtow*, Food and Society Policy Fellow at the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, and Managing Editor of the *Journal of Hunger and Environmental Nutrition*

Nov. 4, Wednesday: **PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABILITY: CAN WE EAT OUR WAY TO A BETTER WORLD?**

*Hugh Campbell*, Director of the Centre for the Study of Food, Agriculture, and Environment at Otago University, New Zealand

Nov. 10, Tuesday: Talk title forthcoming

*Monique Hooker*, Wisconsin chef, story-teller, and author of *Cooking with the Seasons*

Nov. 17, Tuesday: organizing Wiki groups

Nov. 24, Tuesday, and Dec. 8, Tuesday: meeting time for Wiki groups

Dec. 15, Tuesday, and Dec. 22, Tuesday: Wiki group presentations